GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1090
ANSWERED ON:24.10.2008
CLOSURE OF NTPC UNITS
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several units of NTPC in the country have been closed down or are on the verge of closure due to shortage of fuel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) : No, Sir. However, there have been loss of generation during the current year on account of fuel shortage. Farakka Unit 1 and Unit 2 were stopped for a few days (Unit 1 for 12 days in June 2008 and Unit 2 for 2 days in October 2008) due to coal shortage.

(c) : The coal supply position to thermal power stations is monitored by the Central Electricity Authority and the Ministry of Power on daily basis. Shortage of coal is being monitored by the Infrastructure Constraints Review Committee headed by Secretary (Coordination), Cabinet Secretariat and its Sub Group under the aegis of the Ministry of Coal (MOC). In order to bridge the gap between requirement and availability of indigenous coal, NTPC Ltd. has been advised by this Ministry to import coal during the year 2008-09. NTPC Ltd. has issued Letter of Intent (LOI) to M/s STC for supply of 8.25 million tonnes of imported coal. NTPC Ltd. has imported about 0.8 million tonne of coal during April to September 2008.

The gas shortage in NTPC Ltd. plants has been partially mitigated by arranging for Spot Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) from major domestic suppliers, viz. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC), Hazira LNG Ltd. (HLL) from time to time based on the requirement and the availability of Spot RLNG.

Further, NTPC Ltd. has contracted 1 MMSCMD Panna-Mukti-Tapti (PMT) spot gas from GAIL for a period of one year with effect from May 2008 on best endeavour basis. The PMT spot gas supply received for this financial year (April to September 2008) is 0.10 MMSCMD. Efforts are also being made to tie up future domestic gas/RLNG.

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has initiated various steps to augment gas supplied for the domestic market including:

(i) Intensification of domestic Exploration and Production (E&P) activities;

(ii) Exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) gas;

(iii) Implementation of Natural Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) for evaluation of hydrate resources and their possible commercial exploitation;

(iv) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) import; and

(v) Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.